

Message Text

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ORIGIN OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 L-03 COME-00 EB-07 INT-05 OES-03

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R 261506Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 150495

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, JA, KS

SUBJECT: PROPOSED DATE FOR US-ROK FISHERIES MEETING

REF: TOKYO 8434, TOKYO 8035

1. DEPARTMENT HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION MEETING WITH ROK
LATER THIS FALL ON (1) STATUS OF NORTH PACIFIC FISHERIES
RESOURCES AND (2) ROK FISHERIES IN NORTH PACIFIC AND
THEIR RELATION TO EXISTING FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN AREA.
CONSULTATIONS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH KIM, FISHERIES
ATTACHE, KOREAN EMBASSY AND TENTATIVE AGREEMENT HAS
BEEN REACHED ON MEETING AND SUBJECTS. SINCE MEETING WILL
BE HOSTED BY ROKG, WE ARE PRESENTLY AWAITING WORD FROM
ROKG.

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2. TIMING OF MEETING PRESENTS REAL PROBLEM DUE TO VERY
HEAVY AND TIGHT SCHEDULE FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR. MOST

LIKELY MEETING WILL BE HELD IN MID-NOVEMBER FOLLOWING INPFC MEETING.

3. FROM STANDPOINT OF JAPAN, WE CAN UNDERSTAND JFA'S CONCERN OVER APPARENT INCREASE IN ROK FISHING EFFORT. AS STATED IN US ORAL STATEMENT OF DECEMBER 1974, US INTENDS TO SEEK REDUCTIONS IN FISHING OPERATIONS OF OTHER

NATIONS IN A MANNER APPROPRIATE TO THEIR FISHING OPERATIONS, THROUGH CATCH CEILINGS AND AREA/TIME RESTRICTIONS WHERE APPLICABLE, WHICH WILL BE SIMILAR TO MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY JAPAN. PLEASE INFORM MATSUURA OF OUR FIRM INTENTIONS TO MEET THIS COMMITMENT.

4. USCG/NMFS SURVEILLANCE SHOWS MAXIMUM OF 7 SOUTH KOREAN LONGLINE VESSELS HAS OPERATED OFF US PACIFIC COAST IN 1975. SINCE FEBRUARY-MARCH HIGH OF 7 VESSELS, THEIR EFFORT DECLINED TO 4 VESSELS IN APRIL AND INCREASED TO 6 IN MAY. OF LATTER 6, 4 WERE SIGHTED IN GULF AND 2 OFF PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

5. USG CONTINUES TO BE FACED WITH CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE TO EXTEND UNILATERALLY US JURISDICTION OVER FISHERIES TO 200 MILES. DEPARTMENT IS RE-EVALUATING ITS POSITION ON FISHERIES JURISDICTION IN LIGHT OF RECENTLY CONCLUDED GENEVA SESSION OF LOS CONFERENCE. CONGRESSIONAL INITIATIVE TO EXTEND UNILATERALLY FISHERIES JURISDICTION IS NOT EXPECTED TO BE CLARIFIED UNTIL FALL. IN VIEW OF THIS SITUATION AND SCHEDULING PROBLEMS, WE FEEL IT BEST TO HOLD OFF TALKS WITH ROK UNTIL SITUATION BECOMES CLEARER IN FALL.

6. FYI. NOVEMBER MEETING IS INTENDED TO EXPLORE ON PRELIMINARY BASIS FUTURE US-ROK FISHERIES RELATIONS. HOWEVER, WE MAY NEED TO RE-EXAMINE SITUATION IN LIGHT OF CONGRESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN NEXT FEW MONTHS. KISSINGER

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